

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

M/047/022

From: Tony Gallegos
To: WHEDBERG, LBRAXTON
Date: Thursday, June 22, 1995 8:41 am
Subject: M/047/022 & S/047/032 Public Complaint

Yesterday I received a call from Bill Geise, EPA Denver, Water Quality, (303) 293-1701. He had received a call/complaint from Lyle McKeachnie of Vernal, UT (801) 789-9676 regarding the asphalt operations near Vernal. I informed Bill of our existing permit and general requirements regarding operations and reclamation. I gave him a contact for the small mine operation adjacent to the pit, since it seemed Mr. McKeachnie's complaints were directed toward impacts from that operation.

Later that day I received a call from Mr. Lyle McKeachnie. Lyle is a member of a Home Owners Association (President is Dan Lindsey), but is calling on his own behalf and not the association. Lyle is a developer under the company heading of General Properties, Inc. He sold properties to the housing development near the asphalt pit called Air Village Hills. He has a number of concerns regarding the recent operations at the asphalt mine (in its entirety). According to him: they were recently blasting near the highwall, they have approximately 120 acres disturbed, a small pond they constructed to contain runoff water overflowed sending oily water past the housing development, their storage of blasting agents doesn't seem secure, they are generating a considerable amount of dust at times, public access to the dangerous highwall area is not controlled adequately, there is little reclamation being done, the areas which have received reclamation have very poor vegetation success. --> I discussed the Division's general operation and reclamation practices with Lyle. I mentioned the recent permit amendment submitted by the county and approved by DOGM. I told him that most of the reclamation at this site is to be completed after mining ceases. In addition to pit there is a gravel area which I believe involves State Lands. Issues DOGM may have concerns with would be: oily water leaving the site, excessive dust, disturbance beyond that defined in the permit, placing waste materials into drainages, nonconformance permit, not complying with operating practices (safety). I told him we would conduct an inspection, but it would not happen until July. Lyle asked that we contact the Home Owners Association and invite them on the inspection if possible. I informed him I would check with Uintah County/AROC Mine to see if they had any objections to the Association members coming on site when I schedule an inspection. In addition to scheduling an inspection, I told Lyle I would check with DWQ, DAQ, and ATF regarding the status of the mine operations.

A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT TO FILES M/047/022 & S/047/032